Steps taken for increasing exports of garments

*346 SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken for increasing export of garments particularly knitwears and shawls;

(b) the details of drawback taken by the exporters in the last two years;

(c) whether it is a fact that large number of drawback claims are pending in the Ministry; and

(d) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Government have been taking several steps from time to time for encouraging exporters of textile industry including those of knitwear and shawls. Some of the important initiatives are:

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(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also announced the de-reservation of knitted segment in the Budget 2002-03.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50% Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures.

(iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%. A programme has also been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(v) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed in the textile sector with a few exceptions.

(vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vii) To prepare and sensitise the textile industry (including knitwear and shawls) to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

(b) Total amount of duty drawback paid to exporters under duty drawback scheme was Rs. 4188.89 crores during financial year 2000-01 and Rs. 2675.56 crores during financial year 2001-02 (upto January, 2002). Data for drawback paid to garment sector is not compiled separately.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Rehabilitation package for sick spinning mills

*347. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the spinning mills in the country and Tamil Nadu in particular;

(b) whether some of them are on the verge of closure or being declared sick;

(c) if so, the details, thereof;

(d) whether any concrete measures including rehabilitation package are being taken by the government to reopen such mills;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if no, the reasons therefor?